

REMARKS

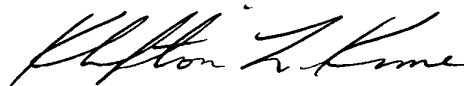
Claims 225-271 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 244 and 256 are amended to depend from independent claim 228.

Applicants provisionally elect Group II (claims 228-235), with traverse. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the claims of Group IV (244-271) are part of Group II, and the restriction requirement at least with respect to claims 228-235 and 244-271 should be withdrawn.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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